



# The Vietnam War

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1940-1975



# Lesson Objectives

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Explain the causes and effects of the Vietnam War.

Concerned by expansionist Communist ideology and Soviet repression, the United States sought to contain communism through a variety of measures, including major military engagements in Vietnam.

Postwar decolonization and the emergence of powerful nationalist movements in Asia led both sides in the Cold War to seek allies among new nations, many of which remained non-aligned.

Americans debated the appropriate power of the executive branch in conducting foreign and military policy.



The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution



The Tet Offensive



The My Lai Massacre



The Kent State Shootings



The Pentagon Papers





The War Powers Resolution of 1973



# Assignment Items

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- a. Name three reasons why the United States became involved in the Vietnam War.
- b. Discuss one strategy that the Vietnamese and one strategy that the Americans used in fighting the war in Vietnam.
- c. Explain why the American public grew increasingly frustrated with the conduct of the war in Vietnam.

\* In your teams, pick four of the items below and discuss why each one of them is important for us to have an understanding of the war in Vietnam.

- The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution

- The Kent State Shootings

- The Tet Offensive

- The Pentagon Papers

- The My Lai Massacre

- The War Powers Resolution of 1973